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REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES, QUESTIONS RELATING TO REFUGEES, RETURNEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS AND HUMANITARIAN QUESTIONS

Eritrea: draft resolution

Horn of Africa

The General Assembly,

Aware that Eritrea has been devastated by a 30-year war and repeated droughts, thus its economy and resources have been destroyed and that it is starting anew,

Deeply concerned about the massive task of repatriating over half a million refugees, particularly from the Sudan, and resettling voluntary returnees, internally displaced persons and the demobilized former combatant army in Eritrea, and the enormous burden that these have placed on the infrastructure and meagre resources of the country,

Deeply concerned also about the consequences that these have entailed for Eritrea's capability to tackle the effects of the prolonged drought and rebuild the economy of the country,

Aware of the heavy burden placed on the Government of Eritrea and of the need for immediate and adequate assistance to its Programme for Refugee Reintegration and Rehabilitation of Resettlement Areas in Eritrea and for the resettling of demobilized former combatants and victims of natural disasters,

Recognizing the need to integrate refugee-related development projects into local and national development plans,

Recognizing also the need for cooperation between the Government of Eritrea and the Department of Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat and other relevant organizations in order to mobilize the necessary international assistance to put the programmes of human resettlement into action in Eritrea,

1. Appeals to Member States, international organizations and non-governmental organizations to provide adequate and sufficient financial, material and technical assistance for relief and rehabilitation programmes for the large number of refugee returnees and displaced persons and victims of natural disasters;

2. Calls upon the Secretary-General, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Department of Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat and the humanitarian agencies of the United Nations to continue their efforts to mobilize humanitarian assistance for the relief, repatriation and resettlement of refugee returnees, displaced persons and demobilized former combatants;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to mobilize adequate financial and material assistance for the full implementation of ongoing projects in rural and urban areas affected by the presence of refugee returnees, displaced persons and demobilized former combatants;

4. Requests the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs to continue his efforts with the appropriate agencies of the United Nations and intergovernmental, governmental and non-governmental organizations, in order to consolidate and increase essential services to refugee returnees, displaced persons and demobilized former combatants.